Scheduled Bank or any other person to act as the Operating Agency. In accordance with these provisions, BIFR appointed IDBI, Mumbai, a reputed financial institution, as the Operating Agency in the case of IDPL.

Increasing Sickners of Public Sector Units Due to its handling Agencies

344. SHRI BRATIN SEN GUPTA:
SHRI JIBON ROY:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether concerned agencies are handling the cases like IDPL, Hindustan Antibiotics Limited in a most lackadaisical manner causing further sickness for these Public Sector Units;

(b) whether such approach is accidental; and

(c) if so, whether Government have any plan to make things look better?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) No, Sir. In the case of IDPL, a revival package was approved in 1994 and financial assistance in excess of what was envisaged was extended to the company by the Government of India. Despite this, IDPL could not achieve the targetted levels of production and sales. BIFR declared that the earlier package had failed and appointed IDBI as the Operating Agency. IDBI has reported that an economically viable revival package for IDPL cannot be drawn up. A revival scheme prepared by the IDPL employees was submitted recently and a final decision on this is to be taken. In the case of HAL, it was declared sick only on 31st March, 1997 and the company has prepared a draft revival proposal and submitted it to the IDBI which has been appointed as the Operating Agency by the BIFR.

Revival Package for Fertilizer Corporation of India

345. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a revival package for the Fertilizer Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The revival package for FCI has been reformulated on the basis of the report of an Expert Group led by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India Ltd. The package envisages a fresh investment of Rs. 2638 crore on the revamp of Sindri, Ramagundam and Talcher units of FCI, apart from various other reliefs and concessions. Inter-ministerial consultations are being held to determine the scope of the revamp and tie up the funding arrangements.

Liabilities Assessed Regarding Dexamethasone

346. SHRI H. HANUMAN THAPPA:
SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of liabilities assessed in respect of Dexamethasone against Merind and Cadila for the period April, 1979 till they implemented Government's fixed prices scheme;

(b) whether liabilities against both the companies have not been fully assessed and they have been shown favouritism;

(c) what were the prices of bulk drugs adopted by them in the formulations at the time of commencement of DPCO, 1979 and what was the price notified by Government for these drugs; and

(d) what steps have been taken to investigate the bungling?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The DPEA liability of M/s. Merind as well as M/s: Cadila in respect of bulk drug Dexamethasone has been worked out for the entire period of the Durg (Prices Control) Order, 1979. Both these cases are presently before the Drug Prices Liabilitites Review Committee (DPLRC) headed by a retired High Court Judge.

पर्यावरण आयोग की स्थापना

347. **श्री अजीत जोगी:** क्या पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार पर्यावरण से संबंधित मामलों को निपटाने के लिए राष्ट्रीय और राज्य स्तर पर पर्यावरण आयोग स्थापित करने का विचार रखती है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) इस संबंध में अंतिम निर्णय कब तक ले लिए जाने की संभावना है?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री (प्रो॰ सैफउद्दीन सोज़): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) और (ग) प्रश्न नहीं उठते।

Destruction of Forests in the North East

348. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the wanton destruction of forests in the North East due to Jhumming shifting cultivation and for the purpose of domestic fuel;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken to stop this practice;

(c) whether Government are aware of the ban on movement of timbers from the North Eastern Region for Industrial purposes; and

(d) if so, what are the steps taken to engage those labourers who were thrown out of jobs due to closure of saw mills and plywood factories in the Region?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Government have launched Watershed Development Project for shifting cultivation areas of North-East Region with 100% grant in the State Plan Programmes during last three years of the Eight Five year Plan. An amount of Rs. 45.80 crores has been released by Central Government in the Eight Five Year Plan. The Scheme is continuing during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) Supreme Court *vide* Order dated 12.12.1996 imposed a complete ban on movement of cut trees and timber from any of the seven North-Eastern States except movement of certified timber required for defence or other Government purposes. The Court *vide* Order dated 4.3.1997 constituted a High Power Committee to oversee the strict and faithful implementation of the Order and to oversee preparation of inventories of all timbers lying in North-Eastern States and, *vide* further Order dated 8.5.1997, authorised High Power Committee for permitting sale of round timber within the States for conversion into finished products as well as movement of finished products within and outside the States.

(d) Supreme Court *vide* Order dated 12.12.1996 directed that due to closure of Saw Mills and other Woodbased Industries pursuant to its order, the workers employed will continue to be paid their full emoluments due and shall not be retrenched or removed from services.